Black Militarists Get U.S. Funds

By Jack Anderson

The federal government has granted $523,000 to a bizarre black paramilitary group which the Anti-Defamation League contends is using the money to build up an anti-Semitic mercenary army.

The group's flamboyant commander, Col. Hassan Jeru-Ahmed, denies his Blackman's Volunteer Army of Liberation is against the Jews.

The government is paying him to rehabilitate narcotics addicts. Military discipline is necessary, he contends, to keep them in line. They get close-order drill, he says, but no weapons training.

The taxpayers' $523,000 contribution assertedly will go to teach them such peaceful pursuits as carpentry and clerking. This will begin Thursday in a converted commissary building in Washington and on a farm in Spotsylvania County, Va.

The Anti-Defamation League says Hassan intends to run the farm as a military camp complete with small-arms training and guerrilla exercises.

Hassan swears no guns are being taken to the farm. The Blackman's Army's only weapons, he says, are handguns kept on the premises to repel drug racketeers. Yet his chief of staff, Maj. Jamal, recently received a 30-day sentence after he dropped a pistol while passing out literature on Capitol Hill.

Private Prison

The handsome Hassan, whose hair rises from his broad brow like a shock of white wheat, keeps his army under iron discipline. To enforce it, he administers beatings and imposes short-term imprisonment in his own private jail cell.

My associate, Les Whitten, called on Hassan in his "chancery" where black-shirted guards protect him and wire window screens are designed to ward off hand grenades.

He wants to go to Africa at the head of his Blackman's Army. "We won't force anyone to go, of course," he said. "We're in touch with five African nations."

He has spoken tentatively with officials of Nigeria, Zambia, Ghana, Tanzania and, before its downfall, Biafra, about giving his artisan-addict-soldiers a home in the vague future. "Maybe it will be five years, maybe ten, maybe more," He shrugged.

Hassan not only has his own army but his own government, a paper nation that he calls "The Provisional Government of the United Moorish Republic." His troopers swear an "oath of allegiance" to his mythical republic.

Since the United States gives aid to other governments, Hassan sees no incon- $523,000 U.S. grant for his United Moorish Republic. But the United States, which doesn't recognize Hassan's paper government, pays the half-million bucks to the Blackman's Development Center. He receives over $100,000 a year additionally from foundations, unions, civic organizations, businesses, churches and individuals.

The amazing Hassan collects still another $169,000 from Washington's Narcotics Treatment Administration to fight heroin through methadone detoxification. Many hard-headed government officials and narcotics experts, though aware of Hassan's private army, insist to us he is doing worthwhile work.

FBI and Xerox

The FBI has tried unsuccessfully to get the Xerox Corporation to provide a sample copy from thousands of its clients' machines so the FBI can find out who duplicated its recently stolen documents.

The company, however, did agree to furnish the FBI's Buffalo, N. Y., office a list of all clients who rent its "660" series copying machines, one of which was apparently used to run off the stolen papers.

The documents, stolen from the FBI office at Media, Pa., and sent anonymously to several newspapers, revealed extensive FBI surveillance of sistency in accepting a black and student activist groups.

Gerard Mulligan, a spokesman for Xerox, said that in addition to the client list, the FBI wanted the company to have its service representatives make an extra, blank copy on every machine they inspected during their regular service calls.

Mulligan explained that every Xerox copy, even the blank ones, have uniform distinguishing markings by which it would be possible to trace an individual copy to the machine which produced it.

He said the marking are caused by slight differences in the surfaces of the internal "drums" on which the copies are printed. The extra blank copies requested were to be turned over to the FBI.

However, Mulligan said, "The top management considered the request and decided against it. What is came down to was the ethical responsibilities of the business."

"If we were to do this," he added, "we had a responsibility to inform our customers it was being done and this would have defeated the FBI's whole purpose."

Mulligan said the request for the client list came several days before the FBI tried to enlist the service department. He said the list was provided because the company felt it was the kind of information a government investigative agency could eventually have obtained by subpoena anyway.

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